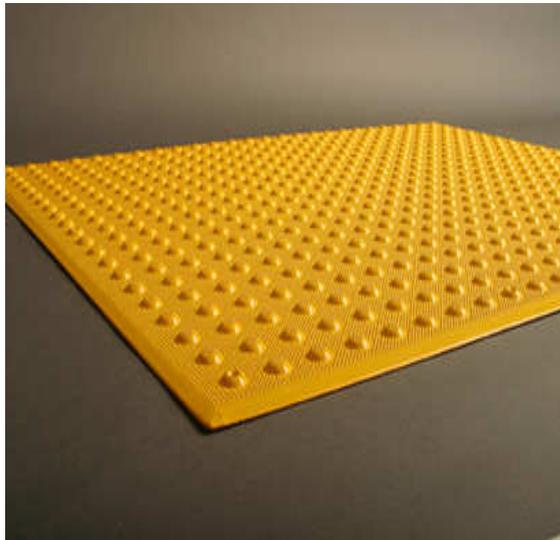




Curb cuts are coming!



Yellow dots are coming!

Yellow dots will be showing up at the new curb cuts. These are detectable warnings – a distinctive surface pattern of domes detectable by cane or under-foot, used to alert people with vision impairments of their approach to streets and hazardous drop-offs, impending danger or a grade change. The ADA Accessibility Guidelines require these warnings on the surface of curb ramps, which remove a tactile clue otherwise provided by curb faces, and at other areas where pedestrian ways blend with vehicular ways. They are also required along the edges of boarding platforms in transit facilities and at the perimeter of reflecting pools.

The Andover Commission on Disability is happy to announce that the completion of all the required curb cuts for the downtown area is near. Between the Main Street Project and our priority requests over the years, Route 28 from Phillips Academy to the Shawsheen Plaza will be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

Every year, the commission submits priorities for new curb cuts to the Department of Public Works. Next year, we will be identifying other high traffic areas that require curb cuts for people with disabilities near schools, churches and other public buildings. Please send your recommendations and comments on such locations to copolaj@comcast.net.

Curb cuts placed at street intersections allow someone in a wheelchair or with a stroller to move onto or off a sidewalk without difficulty. Pedestrians using a walker or cane, pushing or pulling a cart or walking next to a bicycle also benefit from curb cuts.

The detectable warning is made up of “truncated domes” that have had their tops cut off or truncated. The truncated domes are placed relatively close together and can be detected by one’s feet or when using a long cane. Originally instituted at crosswalks and other hazardous vehicular ways by countries like Japan and the United Kingdom, among others, the United States picked up the standard after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.



**New Curb cut at the corner of
Andover Street and Dale Street**

Andover’s Commission on Disability website can be reached at:

<http://andoverma.gov/boards/disability>

WHAT IS AUTISM ?

Autism is a neurological disorder that presents a certain set of behaviors that can range from the very mild to the severe. According to the Autism Society of America, the U.S. Department of Education, and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at a startling rate of 10 to 17 percent each year. At this rate, it is estimated that the prevalence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade.

RESOURCES: Andover Special Education Parent Advisory Council which provides a wealth of information from educational services to Special Olympics:

www.andoversepac.org
Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org
Autism Support Center, Danvers, MA
(978) 777- 9135
Local Division of Autism, Department of
Mental Retardation
(978) 521- 9432

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS:

- * Does not babble, point, or make meaningful gestures by one year of age
- * Does not speak one word by 16 months of age
- * Does not combine 2 words by two years of age
- * Does not respond to name
- * Loses language or social skills

OTHER INDICATORS:

- * Poor eye contact
- * Doesn't seem to know how to play with toys
- * Excessively lines up toys or other objects
- * Is attached to one particular toy or object
- * Doesn't smile
- * At times seems to be hearing impaired

Starting with this article, the newsletter will regularly feature a particular disability to provide useful information and available resources. If you would like to see a particular topic reviewed, please notify coppolaj@comcast.net.

MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mass Rehab Commission or MRC was founded to implement the federal Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program originally signed into law in the 1920's. Its specific goal was to enable Massachusetts residents with disabilities to access all aspects of community life and employment. Over the years, MRC promoted equality, empowerment, and productive independence for individuals through evaluation of skills and job placement services. It eventually became a full service agency with an extensive network of partners, including local employers, federal, state and local agencies, and various service providers.

In 2005, MRC assisted 3,452 individuals with disabilities to obtain competitive employment. The local MRC vocational rehabilitation office is located at 1 Parker Street in Lawrence. (978) 685-1731 Happy Anniversary, MRC!

Walk for Diabetes



Sunday October 15th 2006 Andover, MA.
For more information and to sign up visit:
www.diabetes.org/walk

Newsletter Feedback Welcomed

Send comments to coppolaj@comcast.net or leave a message @ 978-475-0363